

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 009740

R 291256Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1702

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH RIKSDAG FINALLY ACHIEVES TIE VOTE

REF: STOCKHOLM 1252

SUMMARY: SWEDISH RIKSDAG FINALLY ACHIEVED TIE VOTES ON MARCH 27-28, FORCING USE OF THE DRAWING OF YES/NO LOTS FROM A BOX. CONSENSUS OF PRESS REACTION IS THAT BUMBLING DISPLAY IN RIKSDAG SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, AND NEW ELECTION IS ONLY SOLUTION. PALME, HOWEVER, HAS NOT COMMITTED HIMSELF. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER EARLIER AWKWARD FAILURES TO ACHIEVE EXPECTED TIE VOTES (DESCRIBED REFTTEL), RIKSDAG DEMONSTRATED MARCH 27-28 THAT ITS MEMBERS CAN PUSH RIGHT BUTTONS. BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET LEARNT HOW TO BE PROPERLY PAIRED IN CASE OF A VALID EXCUSE FOR NOT BEING PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER.

2. THREE VOTES WERE TAKEN ON MINOR ISSUES MARCH 27 AND ONE ON MARCH 28 WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS:
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A. THE FIRST VOTE DEALT WITH A RESOLUTION TO TURN

DOWN AN OPPOSITION PROPOSAL TO GIVE GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO CERTAIN ENTERPRISES FOR IMPROVING WORKING ENVIRONMENT. THE VOTE REGISTERED AS 170 TO 170, WITH ONLY FIVE MEMBERS (ALL PROPERLY PAIRED) ABSENT FGM EACH BLOC, THUS PRODUCING THE HISTORIC FIRST TIE VOTE SINCE THE SEPT. 1973 ELECTION PRODUCED A 175-175 DEADLOCK IN THE RIKSDAG. THE SPEAKER PRODUCED A BROWN BOX, A LIBERAL PULLED OUT ONE OF TWO TALLIES, WHICH WAS "NO", AND THE GOVERNMENT LOST ON THE RESOLUTION.

B. THE SECOND VOTE WAS ON ANOTHER GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION ABOUT A STUDY OF INNOVATION EFFORTS IN INDUSTRY-- AGAIN A TIE WAS EXPECTED, BUT THE ELECTRONIC TALLY SHOWED 170 TO 169 IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT. IT WAS THEN DISCOVERED THAT FORMER CENTER PARTY LEADER GUNNAR HEDLUND HAD GONE HOME TO VISIT HIS CONVALESCING WIFE AND HAD NOT BOTHERED TO FIND A PAIR, AS HE DID NOT EXPECT ANOTHER DEADLOCKED VOTE.

C. THE THIRD VOTE--AN OPPOSITION PROPOSAL GIVING STATE ORGANS A FREE HAND TO DO BUSINESS WITH OTHER PRINTERS THAN THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE--ALSO OCCURRED WITH HEDLUND ABSENT, BUT IT HAPPENED THAT CENTER LEADER THORBJORN FALLDIN WAS PAIRED FOR THAT VOTE WITH AN ABSENT SOCDEM MEMBER. HE WAS IN THE CHAMBER, HOWEVER, AND GOT PERMISSION TO SHIFT HIS PAIRING TO HEDLUND AND THUS WAS ABLE TO VOTE. RESULT 168 TO 168, NEW "YES" AND "NO" MARKERS IN THE BROWN BOX, AND A NEW VICTORY FOR THE OPPOSITION IN THE DRAW.

D. FOURTH VOTE, MARCH 28, WAS ON A PERENNIAL BOURGEOIS PROPOSAL TO ALLOW TAX DEDUCTION FOR CHARITABLE GIFTS. VOTE WAS 163-163, ANOTHER LOTTERY, AND THIS TIME GOVERNMENT WON.

COMMENT: THE FOUR VOTES GAVE EDITORIAL WRITERS ANOTHER CHANCE TO ACHIEVE BON MOTS AT THE EXPENSE OF RIKSDAG, BUT BOTH SOCDEM AND OPPOSITION EDITORS ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT SUCH NONSENSEAS MISSED BUTTONS, ABSENT MEMBERS, AND LOTTERY DECISIONS, SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AND NEW ELECTION IS ONLY SOLUTION. PALME, HOWEVER, HAS SPOKEN CAUTIOUSLY ON SUBJECT OF NEW ELECTION IN SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH REGIONAL PARTY LEADERS DURING LAST UNCLASSIFIED

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FEW DAYS. PRESS REPORTS THAT LOCAL SOCDEM LEADERS OVERWHELMINGLY FAVOR NEW ELECTION. OLSEN

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